

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 21, 2005. Claims 39 to 111 are pending in the application, with Claims 39 to 75, 80 to 93, 98 to 105, 107, 108, 110 and 111 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 76, 78, 79, 94, 96, 97, 106 and 109, of which Claims 76, 94, 106 and 109 are independent, have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 76 to 79, 94 to 97, 106 and 109 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,774,232 (Tabata) and U.S. Patent No. 6,335,796 (Endo). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns outputting image data to an output medium. Information is acquired indicating an X-ray irradiation condition or a photographed portion of an input image. An outputting area, to be outputted to the output medium, is designated based on the acquired information, wherein a size of the designated outputting area is smaller than a size of the input image. An aspect ratio of the designated outputting area is obtained, wherein the aspect ratio changes according to the designated outputting area. One of a plurality of output medium types is selected based on the aspect ratio of the designated outputting area. An output mode is determined based on a relationship between the designated outputting area and a size of the selected output medium type.

Thus, among its many features, the present invention provides for (i) obtaining an aspect ratio of a designated outputting area, wherein the aspect ratio changes according to the designated outputting area, (ii) selecting one of a plurality of output

medium types based on the aspect ratio of the designated outputting area, and (iii) determining an output mode based on a relationship between the designated outputting area and a size of the selected output medium type.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 76 as amended is directed to an image outputting system for outputting image data to an output medium. The system includes an acquisition unit configured to acquire information indicating an X-ray irradiation condition or a photographed portion of an input image, and a designation unit configured to designate an outputting area, in the input image, to be outputted to the output medium, based on the information acquired by the acquisition unit, wherein a size of the designated outputting area is smaller than a size of the input image. The system also includes a ratio obtaining unit configured to obtain an aspect ratio of the outputting area designated by the designation unit, wherein the aspect ratio changes according to the designated outputting area. In addition, the system includes a selection unit configured to select one of a plurality of output medium types based on the aspect ratio of the designated outputting area, and a determination unit configured to determine an output mode based on a relationship between the designated outputting area and a size of the output medium type selected by the selection unit.

Independent Claim 94 as amended is directed to a method which is seen to generally correspond to Claim 76.

Independent Claim 106 as amended is directed to a photographing system for photographing an object and outputting image data to an output medium based on an image of the photographed object. The system includes a photographing unit configured to photograph the object and obtain image data representing the image, and an acquisition

unit configured to acquire information, from the photographing unit, indicating an X-ray irradiation condition or a photographed portion of the object. The system also includes a designation unit configured to designate an outputting area to be outputted to the output medium, in the image data, based on the information acquired by the acquisition unit, wherein a size of the designated outputting area is smaller than a size of the image data, and a ratio obtaining unit configured to obtain an aspect ratio of the outputting area designated by the designation unit, wherein the aspect ratio changes according to the designated outputting area. In addition, the system includes a selection unit configured to select one of a plurality of output medium types based on the aspect ratio of the designated outputting area, and a determination unit configured to determine an output mode based on a relationship between the designated outputting area and a size of the output medium type selected by the selection unit.

Independent Claim 109 as amended is directed to a method which is seen to generally correspond to Claim 106.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention of the subject application. In particular, Tabata and Endo are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) obtaining an aspect ratio of a designated outputting area, wherein the aspect ratio changes according to the designated outputting area, (ii) selecting one of a plurality of output medium types based on the aspect ratio of the designated outputting area, and (iii) determining an output mode based on a relationship between the designated outputting area and a size of the selected output medium type.

As understood by Applicants, Tabata discloses an image recording apparatus that recognizes a size of a sheet document fed thereto, and divides a read image

into two portions when a size of the sheet document is larger than recording paper having a specified size. The apparatus executes image processing for displacing a central position of each divided image to be aligned with an edge of a binding space of each discrete sheet of recording paper. The apparatus inverts either one of a first sheet of recording paper or a second sheet of recording paper. See Tabata, column 16, line 62 to column 17, line 8.

Although Tabata may be seen to disclose that a read image is divided into two portions when the size of a sheet document is larger than that of a recording paper, Tabata is not seen to disclose or suggest that one of a plurality of output medium types is selected based on an aspect ratio of a designated outputting area. As such, Tabata could not be seen to describe (i) obtaining an aspect ratio of a designated outputting area, wherein the aspect ratio changes according to the designated outputting area, (ii) selecting one of a plurality of output medium types based on the aspect ratio of the designated outputting area, and (iii) determining an output mode based on a relationship between the designated outputting area and a size of the selected output medium type.

In addition, Endo has been reviewed and is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Tabata. In particular, although column 11, lines 2 to 8 of Endo may be seen to disclose that all or different portions of an image can be printed, Endo is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) obtaining an aspect ratio of a designated outputting area, wherein the aspect ratio changes according to the designated outputting area, (ii) selecting one of a plurality of output medium types based on the aspect ratio of the designated outputting area, and (iii) determining an output mode based on a relationship between the designated outputting area and a size of the selected output medium type.


Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 76, 94, 106 and 109 as amended are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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